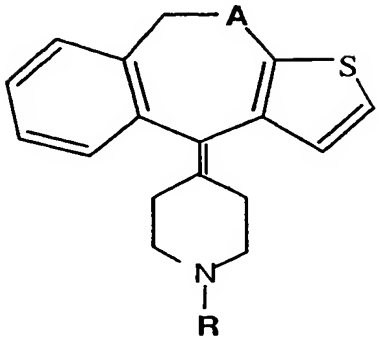
CLAIMS

1. A compound of the structure



where A is -CO- or -CHOH- and R is CH_3 or H, and the stereochemically isomeric forms and diastereomers thereof, with the provisos that
A is not -CO- when R is CH_3,
A is not -CO- when R is H if the compound is a racemate,
A is not -CHOH- when R is CH_3 if the compound is a racemate,
A is not -CHOH- when R is H if the compound is a racemate,
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1, where R is H and A is -CO- and the compound is of the R-configuration.

3. A compound according to claim 1, where R is H and A is -CO- and the compound is of the S-configuration.

4. A compound of claim 1, where R is Me and A is -CHOH- and where said stereochemically isomeric forms are selected from the group consisting of the R,R-, R,S-, S,R- and S,S-configurations.

5. The compounds of claim 1, where R is H and A is -CHOH- and where said stereochemically isomeric forms are selected from the group consisting of the R,R-, R,S-, S,R- and S,S-configurations.

6. A method for synthesis of the stereochemically active compounds according to claim 1, where R is H and A is -CO- and being of the R-

or S-configuration, comprising the conversion of the corresponding stereochemical isomers of ketotifen into their 1-(2,2,2-trichloro ethoxycarbonyl) nor-intermediates, followed by Cd/Pb-catalyzed cleavage to the products.

7. A method for preventing or treating a disease selected from the group consisting of respiratory disorders, allergic disorders, dermal disorders, gastrointestinal disorders and ocular disorders, which comprises administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of racemic norketotifen and stereochemical isomers thereof, stereochemical isomers of ketotifen, racemic 10-hydroxy-ketotifen and the R,R-, R,S-, S,R- and S,S-isomers thereof and racemic 10-hydroxy-norketotifen and the R,R-, R,S-, S,R- and S,S-isomers thereof, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates thereof, while avoiding the dose-limiting sedative side effects of ketotifen.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said respiratory disorder is selected from the group consisting of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, cough, bronchitis and bronchial hyperreactivity.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein said allergic disorder is selected from the group consisting of allergic rhinitis, urticaria, allergic conjunctivitis and allergic keratitis.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein said dermal disorder is selected from the group consisting of atopic dermatitis, urticaria other itching or inflammatory conditions and psoriasis.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein said gastro-intestinal disorder is selected from the group consisting of hypersecretory syndromes including the Zollinger-Ellison syndrome, gastric irritation, enteritis, gastric and duodenal ulcers, gastric reflux, acid indigestion, motility disorders, and heartburn.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein said ocular disorder is selected from the group consisting of conjunctivitis, keratitis, blepharitis, episcleritis, scleritis, uveitis, neuritis, arteritis and sympathetic ophthalmia.

13. The method of claim 7, wherein the therapeutically active compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof is administered by inhalation or nasal insufflation or by parenteral, topical, dermal, transdermal, rectal, sublingual, conjunctival or oral administration.

14. The method according to claim 7, wherein the therapeutically active compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof is administered orally.

15. The method according to claim 7, wherein the therapeutically active compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof is administered orally in an extended release formulation.

16. The method according to claim 7, wherein the therapeutically active compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof is administered topically.

17. The method according to claim 7, wherein the therapeutically active compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof is administered transdermally.

18. The method of claim 7, wherein the amount of the therapeutically active compound is administered from about 0.5 mg to about 200 mg, one to four times per day.

19. The method of claim 7, wherein a solid, semi-solid, liquid, suspension, aerosol or topical or transdermal pharmaceutical composition, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the therapeutically active compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, is administered in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or carrier system.

20. A method comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a composition, said composition comprising a therapeutically active amount of racemic norketotifen, racemic 10-hydroxy-ketotifen, racemic 10-hydroxy-norketotifen or an optically active isomer of ketotifen or a compound of Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof together with one or more drugs of the class consisting of adrenergic antagonists, analgesics,

antihypertensive agents, calcium antagonists, antihistamines, anticholinergic agents, antibacterial agents, antiviral agents, anti-inflammatory agents, bronchodilators, decongestants, steroids, leucotriene antagonists, lipoxygenase inhibitors, local anesthetics, vasoconstrictors, vasodilators, cough suppressants, and expectorants.

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